

FINAL



**WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
February 7, 2005**

PRESENT: LAURA BUONO, CHAIRMAN; LEON METHOT, CO-CHAIRMAN; HELEEN KURK, SELECTMAN; THOMAS REYNOLDS, JR., SELECTMAN; DOUGLAS COOK, SELECTMAN

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: ROBERT CHRISTENSEN

RECORDING SECRETARY: Cherry Palmisano

GUESTS: Donna Osborne, Evelyn Connor, Forrest Esenwine, Virginia Esenwine, Chuck Bolton, Frank Campana, Richard Butt, Steve Najjar, Jen Chartier

6:00 PM Board entered into Nonpublic Session at 6:00 p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A:3 II (a) & (c). In attendance: Chairman Buono, Co-Chairman Methot, Selectman Kurk, Selectman Reynolds, Jr. and Selectman Cook.

7:00 p.m. Chairman Laura Buono called the meeting to order.

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Mr. Forrest Esenwine thanked the Board for responded to his request for refreshments at the Deliberative Session.

Mr. Chuck Bolton spoke to the Board to promote petition Article #22 for a 5 acre minimum. Mr. Bolton's petition increases the minimum lot size from 2 to 5 acres and frontage from 200 to 300 foot for the rural agricultural zone. Mr. Bolton talked about the importance of open space. Using the 2000 census, Mr. Bolton, did a comparison of abutting town's to compare growth and average of school age children. Selectman Kurk asked Mr. Bolton how this 5 acre minimum lot size would affect cluster housing. Mr. Bolton feels that his proposal would work very well with the cluster housing and induce cluster housing.

Mr. Steve Najjar feels that the town needs to look at all the zones and come to a decision on what the town wants. Mr. Najjar is in favor of the 5 acre lot size and feels it will help keep the town rural.

Mr. Dick Butt requested clarification from the Board on some of the amendments that were made at the Deliberative Session. Mr. Butt asked the Board for their commitment on an exact amount to be used from the General Fund for tax relief. Selectman Kurk stated that the Board discussed having \$200,000 for tax relief.

Mr. Butt questioned the board on whether they recommend the article from the Conservation Commission requesting \$200,000. Selectman Kurk stated that the Conservation Commission had sufficient funds to purchase new land but they were concerned that they would have no funds remaining after they purchased the land.

2. APPROVAL OF WEARE FARMER'S MARKET – Ms. Jen Chartier wanted to update the Board on the positive changes for the Weare Farmers Market. They purchased a blanket insurance policy which will cover

FINAL

the whole market. Ms. Chartier stated that the Market would be able to accept WIC coupons and stating they had raised a lot of money for the New Hampshire Agricultural Programs in the Classrooms.

Selectman Kurk stated that she got feedback from citizens that prices were very high and there wasn't enough of a variety. Ms. Chartier feels that things should change now that they have the blanket insurance policy and this should bring in a larger variety of vendors. Ms. Chartier said that the cost reflects the high quality of locally grown produce they receive. Ms. Chartier said that there is plenty of room for new vendors and new vendors will be welcomed. The Board was in favor of more vendors and more of a variety.

3. AUDIT DISCUSSION – Mr. Christensen stated that in going over employee policies would like to get feedback from the Board on whether a town employee upon leaving services with the town should receive a check for their sick time. The Board stated that they should ask the auditors what the cap should be for sick time and where the funds should come from. Employees will have to have 15 years of service of qualify.

The Board will meet on Tuesday, February 22, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.

4. DELIBERATIVE SESSION REVIEW – Mr. Najjar wanted to refresh the Board on the Open Space initiatives. They developed land owner contact letters which is relevant now because of the request for funds to purchase land. Mr. Najjar stated that the property of extreme interest to the Conservation Commission at this time is owned by Chuck. Mr. Najjar feels that it is extremely important for the Conservation Commission to acquire this parcel.

Mr. Najjar reminded the Board that there is a \$20,000 commitment to PWA that has to come out of the funds they already have.

Mr. Najjar informed the Board that the reason for asking for the \$250,000 is because after purchasing this property they would have no funds to do anything with. Mr. Najjar asked the Board to support Article #40. Mr. Najjar stated that it really is a race against the clock to acquire this land.

Co-Chairman Methot moved, Selectmen Kurk seconded to recommend Article #40. Passed 4-0-1. Selectman Cook cannot support the \$250,000 and wishes the request was lower.

Chairman Buono made a statement to the public that the General Fund is not surplus from last year.

5. MEETING MINUTES –

Chairman Buono moved, Selectman Kurk seconded to approve the minutes of December 20, 2004 as amended. Passed 5-0-0.

Chairman Buono moved, Selectman Kurk seconded to approve the minutes of December 21, 2004 as amended. Passed 3-0-2. Selectman Cook and Chairman Buono abstained.

Chairman Buono moved, Selectman Kurk seconded to approve the minutes of January 3, 2005 as amended. Passed 5-0-0.

Chairman Buono moved, Selectman Kurk seconded to approve the minutes of January 10, 2005 as written. Passed 3-0-2. Selectman Cook and Chairman Buono abstained.

FINAL

6. MANIFESTS

Chairman Buono moved, Co-Chair Methot seconded, to authorize the Board of Selectman to sign Manifest and order the Treasurer to sign checks dated February 10, 2005. Passed 5-0-0.

Accounts payable	\$561,424.24
Gross Payrolls	<u>\$30,547.01</u>
Total	\$591,971.25

7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mr. Christensen distributed papers for the Board's signatures.

Mr. Christensen stated that there is a meet the candidates night being held on Wednesday, February 9, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. This night is for meeting the candidates running for Police Chief of which there are five. Peter Flynn of Henniker will be the moderator. Questions are being accepted.

The evening of February 25, 2005 will be the commencing of the candidates for Police Chief, followed by questions for the candidates for Selectmen. The only contested positions are those of Police Chief and Selectmen.

Mr. Christensen would like to commend the emergency response team on their quick response to what was thought to be a propane leak at the Town Office Building.

Mr. Christensen stated that Malcolm Wright is a great asset to the Town Hall Maintenance.

Mr. Christensen looking for the Board's response about salaried employees going over 60 hours a week and how would they be compensated.

Chairman Buono moved to adjourn at 9:08 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

A True Record.

Cherry Palmisano, Recording Secretary